

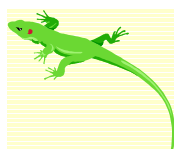


Columbia OEX recorder revealing additional data

Search for debris passing halfway mark

▲ **Columbia Investigation Update:** The [Columbia Accident Investigation Board](#) has announced that there is significant data on the Orbiter Experiment Support System (OEX). After a preliminary review of the recorder, the board has learned there are approximately 420 temperature and pressure sensors with good data, with more to come. The board has also learned that the first heating event occurred earlier than previously reported. This new data will be inserted into the timeline.

▲ **Primary Search For Columbia Material Passes Halfway Mark:** As the search of more than 500,000 acres of primary recovery area for Space Shuttle Columbia material reached its halfway mark, NASA Administrator, Sean O'Keefe, visited key sites in east Texas to thank recovery crews for their diligence and hard work. Approximately 4,500 ground searchers have covered approximately 56 percent of the planned 555,000-acre search area. The air search has covered approximately 74 percent of 604, four-square-nautical-mile grids; and, on water, searchers have scanned about 81 percent of a planned 14.7-square-nautical-mile area. The search should be completed within four to six weeks, weather permitting. Searches farther west, along Columbia's ground track, likely will take additional time, because of the great area involved. About 28 percent of the Shuttle Columbia, by weight, has been delivered to the RLV Hangar.



◆ **CHS Environmental Health Booth at EEAW** – Check out the CHS Environmental Health Booth during EEAW (April 22 & April 23). They are featuring a display of ditch critters common to the Spaceport; as well as creepy crawlies which make life “interesting” in our day-to-day work at the Kennedy Space Center. Other highlights at the tables are the VAB Wetlands Stormwater Project and environmental sampling and monitoring equipment that is used during environmental fieldwork.

◆ **Science News** – NASA scientists have invented a new video technology called VISAR that helps police track down criminals. VISAR could also benefit medical research and allow home filmmakers to invite a digital dinosaur to their kids' next birthday party. Officials announced that VISAR has been selected as NASA's 2002 Commercial Invention of the Year. Read the full story at

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2003/26mar_visar.htm

◆ Nutrition Tip from the KSC Fitness Center

– Many dietitians and nutrition specialists view the “Five a Day” slogan for fruits and vegetables as conservative, and urge people to up their daily servings to nine. This may seem daunting, but remember that a serving of fruit is half a cup of berries, one quarter of a melon, or a medium-sized apple. A vegetable serving equates to one cup of raw, leafy greens, a half cup of cooked veggies, or three quarters of a cup of vegetable juice. The consumption of fruits and vegetables is widely believed to have multiple health benefits, including lower risk for heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and many cancers. Fruits and vegetables are rich in vitamins, minerals, fiber, and antioxidants.



◆ **NASA is asking you to help find the best teachers to go to space** – The NASA Educator Astronaut program wants to acknowledge teachers by letting them know they are appreciated and give them the chance to apply and become a NASA astronaut to fly into space. For more information or for anyone to nominate a teacher on-line, please visit

<http://edspace.nasa.gov>.

◆ **Did You Know?** Weight Watchers will be starting a new series April 10. If interested, you can sit in on the April 4 meeting. Meetings are 11:15 a.m. Thursdays, in HQ room 2414. If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Clark at 321-504-2979 or Debra Erving at 867-4188/e-mail at ervinDE@kscems.ksc.nasa.gov.

KSC Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday.

Deadlines: 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. Send information, comments or questions to:

◆ E-mail – Anita.Barrett-1@ksc.nasa.gov ◆ Telephone – 321-867-2815

Find KSC Countdown on the Internet at <http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/ksccount/2003.htm>